

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERN 00285 211247Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
-----211250Z 127059 /53

O 211230Z JAN 77 ZFF-4  
FM AMEMBASSY BERN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3804

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 285

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SZ PFOR  
SUBJ: SWISS REQUEST FOR ASSITANCE - SHIPMENT OF DRAGON MISSILE  
SYSTEM FOR DEMONSTRATION PRIOR TO PURCHASE

1. SUMMARY: SWISS HAVE ASKED FOR ASSITANCE IN OBTAINING  
PRIORITY MAC AIRLIFT FOR SHIPMENT OF 9 DRAGON MISSILES  
AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT PRIOR TO FEB 5, 1977 TO  
RHEIN-MAUIN AIR BASE. DAO HAS TRANSMITTED THEIR REQUEST  
TO LT GEN HOWARD M. FISH, DIRECTOR, DEFENSE SECURITY  
ASSISTANCE AGENCY. I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR  
HELP IN PERSUADING GENERAL FISH TO SUPPORT THIS  
REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SWISS DECISION TO BUY THE DRAGON WAS IN LARGE  
PART A RESULT OF THE FAILURE OF THEIR EFFORT TO PRODUCE  
AN EQUIVALENT ANTI-TANK WEAPON. THEIR OWN PROJECT WAS  
CANCELLED LAST YEAR BY THEN-PRESIDENT AND MILITARY DEPARTMENT  
HEAD RUDOLPH GNAEGI WITHOUT CONSULTING HIS FELLOW  
FEDERAL COUNCILORS. KURT FURGLER, WHO IS NOW PRESIDENT,  
AND OTHER FEDERAL COUNCILORS ASKED FOR A DEMONSTRATION  
PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF THE REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR THE  
DRAGON TO THE SWISS PARLIAMENT IN MARCH. AN IMPORTANT  
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REASON FOR THIS DEMAND WAS TO REASSERT THE COLLEGIAL  
APPROACH TRADITIONAL IN THE SWISS DECISION MAKING PROCESS.

3. A REQUEST THROUGH THE SWISS EMBASSY FOR SHIPMENT OF  
THE EQUIPMENT FOR THE DEMONSTRATION RESULTED IN ASSIGN-  
MENT OF A SPECIAL MISSION AIRCRAFT AT A COST OF \$86,000.  
HAVING AT FIRST AGREED TO PAY THE COST, GNAEGI WAS OVERRULED

B HIS COLLEAGUES.

4. THERE IS NO OPPOSITION IN THE DEFERAL COUNCIL TO THE PURHCASE. ALL, INCLUDING FURGLER, ARE ANXIOUS TO SEE IT MOVE FORWARD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. THE SHIP-MENT IS NOT LARGE: 1,680 POUNDS OR 148 CUBIC FEET, ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO 6 X 5 X 5 FEET. WE COULD GENERATE CONSIDERABLE GOOD WILL IN RETURN FOR DOING THE SWISS A SERVICE IN HELPING THEM OUT OF AN EMBARRASING PREDICAMENT.  
DAVIS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PROCUREMENT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MISSILES, ANTITANK WEAPONS, MILITARY AIRLIFTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BERN00285  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** SWISS REQUEST FOR ASSITANCE - SHIPMENT OF DRAGON MISSILE SYSTEM FOR DEMONSTRATION PRIOR TO PURCHASE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MASS, SZ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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